

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee of an enterprise creating
3 an original order for goods and services for end-use by said
4 individual employee determine that a resulting invoice
5 should be paid or not triggered upon a three-way match, said
6 three-way match assuring that the invoice match purchase
7 order terms and conditions, and the goods and services
8 received match those stated in quality and quantity against
9 said purchase order, said goods and services including goods
10 received through a receiving dock and for which a receipt is
11 generated, and goods and services not received through a
12 dock and for which a receipt is not generated, with invoices
13 for selected goods and services identified as pertaining to
14 items requiring positive confirmation, comprising the steps
15 of:

16 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
17 system from said individual employee a requisition for
18 goods or services from a vendor for end-use by said
19 individual employee;

20 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
21 from said requisition a purchase order and identifying
22 said goods or services as items requiring one of
23 positive and negative confirmation;

24 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
25 submitting said purchase order selectively as one of an
26 EDI message and a paper purchasing document to said
27 vendor;

28 receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods
29 or services as an electronic invoice for processing by
30 said enterprise accounting and catalog system;

31 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for goods or
32 services as a paper invoice for processing to said
33 enterprise accounting and catalog system by accounts
34 payable personnel other than said individual employee;

35 preparing an invoice image of an invoice received for
36 said goods or services ordered by said individual
37 employee;

38 storing said invoice image in an image store;

39 keying said image to invoice data;

40 said enterprise accounting and catalog system

41 communicating by electronic mail a plurality of

42 confirmation requests to said individual employee

43 creating original orders for goods or services for end-

44 use by said individual employee, each said request

45 instructing said individual employee to log on to said

46 enterprise accounting and catalog system, including

47 said invoice data and a link to said invoice image, and

48 specifying that each said invoice pertains to an item

49 that is subject selectively to negative confirmation

50 and positive confirmation processing[[,]];

51 said negative confirmation processing for a first

52 confirmation request including advising said individual

53 employee via e-mail that said invoice is confirmed

54 unless specifically not approved by said individual

55 employee, and said positive confirmation processing for

56 a second confirmation request including advising said

57 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed

58 upon entry by said individual employee of approval that

59 invoiced goods and services have been received in

60 quality and quantity matching said purchase order;

61 providing at a user workstation a search interface in
62 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said
63 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to
64 images of invoices that match said criteria be
65 displayed at said user workstation; and

66 responsive to selection of a link by said individual,
67 displaying said invoice image for approval by said
68 individual creating said original order selectively by
69 said negative confirmation and positive confirmation
70 processing.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 3. [Previously presented] The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 4. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, said
2 invoice confirmation request advising said individual
3 employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 5. [Previously presented] The method of claim 4, said
2 invoice confirmation request further advising said
3 individual employee to log on to a front-end requisition and
4 catalog server to view invoices for confirmation.

1 6. [Previously presented] The method of claim 5, further
2 comprising the step responsive to said individual employee
3 logging on to said front-end server of displaying a list of
4 invoices awaiting confirmation and responsive to user
5 selection of a selected invoice, presenting images of
6 invoices corresponding to links selected by said individual
7 employee.

1 7. [Previously presented] The method of claim 1, further

2 comprising the steps of presenting to said individual
3 employee an interface for selecting images of invoices
4 matching a selection criteria.

8. [Canceled]

1 9. [Currently amended] A system for processing invoices
2 by having the individual employee creating an original order
3 for goods or services for end use by said individual
4 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not
5 triggered upon a three-way match, said three-way match
6 assuring that the invoice match purchase order terms and
7 conditions, and the goods and services received match those
8 stated in quality and quantity against said purchase order,
9 said goods and services including goods received through a
10 receiving dock and for which a receipt is generated, and
11 goods and services not received through a dock and for which
12 a receipt is not generated, with invoices for selected goods
13 and services identified as pertaining to items requiring
14 positive confirmation, comprising:

15 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

16 a back-end procurement services system;

17 a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

18 an image system and store for storing said scanned
19 images and serving them to said workstation keyed to
20 said invoice;

21 a workstation selectively receiving user entry from
22 said individual employee of a requisition request for
23 goods or services for end-use by said individual
24 employee, receiving confirmation requests, and viewing
25 images of invoices from said image system and store;
26 said confirmation request instructing said individual
27 employee to log on to said back-end system to view and
28 approve a first invoice by negative and a second
29 invoice by positive confirmation processing, said
30 negative confirmation processing including advising
31 said individual employee via e-mail that said invoice
32 is confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
33 individual employee, and said positive confirmation
34 processing including advising said individual employee
35 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
36 individual employee of approval;

37 said front-end system selectively receiving said
38 requisition requests from said workstation, forwarding
39 said requisition requests to said back-end system,
40 identifying said goods or services as items requiring
41 one of positive and negative confirmation, and
42 receiving confirmation requests from said back-end
43 system for forwarding to said workstation; and

44 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase
45 orders against said requisitions to a vendor at least
46 one invoice as electronic invoice and another invoice
47 as a paper purchase order, receiving and processing
48 invoices electronic invoices directly from said vendor
49 and paper invoices as received and processed by
50 accounts payable personnel other than said individual
51 employee, keying invoice images to invoice information,
52 and processing confirmation requests to said front-end
53 system for communication to said workstation for
54 approval by said individual employee creating said
55 original order for goods or services for end use by
56 said individual employee that invoiced goods and
57 services have been received in quality and quantity
58 matching said purchase order.

1 10. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform a method for processing
4 invoices by having the individual employee creating an
5 original order as an end user of a commodity or service
6 determine that a resulting invoice should be paid or not
7 triggered upon a three-way match, said three-way match
8 assuring that the invoice match purchase order terms and
9 conditions, and the goods and services received match those
10 stated in quality and quantity against said purchase order,
11 said goods and services including goods received through a
12 receiving dock and for which a receipt is generated, and
13 goods and services not received through a dock and for which
14 a receipt is not generated, with invoices for selected goods
15 and services identified as pertaining to items requiring
16 positive confirmation, said method comprising:

17 receiving a plurality of invoices;

18 preparing for each said invoice an invoice image;

19 storing said invoice image in an image store;

20 keying said image to invoice data;

21 communicating first and second invoice confirmation
22 requests to said individual employee, each said request
23 including said invoice data for respective invoice
24 confirmation requests and respective links to invoice
25 images;

26 responsive to requester selection of a first link,
27 displaying a corresponding invoice image to said
28 individual employee for approval by said individual
29 employee creating said original order according to a
30 specified confirmation process; said individual
31 employee processing a first invoice by a negative
32 confirmation process including advising said individual
33 employee via e-mail that said first invoice is
34 confirmed unless specifically not approved by said
35 individual employee, and said individual employee
36 processing a second invoice by a positive confirmation
37 process including advising said individual employee
38 that said invoice will be confirmed upon entry by said
39 individual employee of approval that invoiced goods and
40 services have been received in quality and quantity
41 matching said purchase order.

1 11. [Currently amended] A computer program product for
2 processing invoices by having the individual employee
3 creating an original order for goods and services for end-
4 use by said individual employee determine that a resulting
5 invoice should be paid or not triggered upon a three-way
6 match, said three-way match assuring that the invoice match
7 purchase order terms and conditions, and the goods and
8 services received match those stated in quality and quantity
9 against said purchase order, said goods and services
10 including goods received through a receiving dock and for
11 which a receipt is generated, and goods and services not
12 received through a dock and for which a receipt is not
13 generated, with invoices for selected goods and services
14 identified as pertaining to items requiring positive
15 confirmation according to steps comprising:

16 receiving at an enterprise accounting and catalog
17 system from one or more of said individual employees a
18 plurality of requisitions for goods or services from a
19 vendor for end use by said individual employees;

20 said enterprise accounting and catalog system preparing
21 from said requisitions a plurality of purchase orders
22 and identifying items on said purchase order as goods

23 or services requiring one of positive and negative
24 confirmation;

25 said enterprise accounting and catalog system
26 submitting each said purchase order selectively as EDI
27 message and a paper purchasing document a vendor;

28 receiving from a first vendor an invoice for said goods
29 or services as an electronic invoice, said electronic
30 invoice being received for processing by said
31 enterprise accounting and catalog system;

32 receiving from a second vendor an invoice for said
33 goods or serves as a paper invoice, said paper invoice
34 being received for processing to said enterprise
35 accounting and catalog system by accounts payable
36 personnel other than said individual employee;

37 preparing invoice images of a plurality of invoices
38 received for said goods or services ordered by said
39 individual employees;

40 storing said invoice ~~invoice~~ images in an image store;

41 keying each said image to corresponding invoice data;

42 said enterprise accounting and catalog system

43 communicating by electronic mail an invoice

44 confirmation request for each invoice image to said

45 individual employee, said request instructing said

46 individual employee to log on to said enterprise

47 accounting and catalog system, including said invoice

48 data and a link to said invoice image, and specifying

49 that said invoice is selectively subject to negative

50 confirmation and positive confirmation processing, a

51 first invoice processed by said negative confirmation

52 processing including advising said individual employee

53 via e-mail that said first invoice is confirmed unless

54 specifically not approved by said individual employee,

55 and a second invoice processed by said positive

56 confirmation processing including advising said

57 individual employee that said invoice will be confirmed

58 upon entry by said individual employee of approval;

59 providing at a user workstation a search interface in

60 said enterprise accounting and catalog system for said

61 individual employee to enter criteria and have links to

62 images of invoices that match said criteria be

63 displayed at said user workstation; and

64 responsive to selection of a link by said individual
65 employee, displaying said invoice image for approval by
66 said individual employee creating said original order
67 for goods or services for end use by said individual
68 employee that invoiced goods and services have been
69 received in quality and quantity matching said purchase
70 order selectively by said negative confirmation and
71 positive confirmation processing.

1 12. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising:

3 preparing said invoice images by scanning paper
4 invoices received from a vendor.

1 13. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 12, said method further comprising:

3 preparing other of said invoice images by converting
4 electronic invoices received from a vendor into an
5 image file representation having the look of a paper
6 invoice.

1 14. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said invoice confirmation request advising said
3 individual employee to process said confirmation as negative
4 confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1 15. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 14, said invoice confirmation request further advising
3 said individual employee to log on to a front- end
4 requisition and catalog server to view invoices for
5 confirmation.

1 16. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 15, said method further comprising responsive to said
3 individual employee logging on to said front-end server of
4 displaying a list of invoices awaiting confirmation and
5 responsive to selection of a selected invoice by said
6 individual employee, presenting images of invoices
7 corresponding to links selected by said individual employee.

1 17. [Previously presented] The program storage device of
2 claim 10, said method further comprising presenting to said
3 individual employee an interface for selecting images of
invoices matching a selection criteria.